

### REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 26, 27, 33-38 and 41 remain pending in the present application; Claims 39, 40 and 42 had been cancelled; Claims 34 and 37 have been amended.

Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

### REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

**Claim 37** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 37 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

**Claims 34-36 and 38** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Ruggiero** (U.S. Pat. No. 4,878,770). **Claim 39** is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 39 depended from Independent Claim 34. Claim 34 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 39; and Claim 39 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 34, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of

record. Likewise, Claims 35, 36 and 38, which ultimately depend from Claim 34, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

**Claims 41 and 42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ruggiero* as applied to Claim 34 above, and further in view of *Kawasaki Steel Corp [Kawi]* (English Abstract of JP 04157723 A). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 41 depends from Claim 34. As stated above, Claim 34 has been amended and is now believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Thus, Claim 41 is also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claim 42 has been cancelled.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 21, 2003

By: 

Michael J. Schmidt  
Reg. No. 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

MJS/lf-s